Module title			Abbreviation
Introduction to Economic Policy			12-WiPo-G-072-m01
Module coordinator		**Module offered by**	
holder of the Chair of Economic Order and Social Policy		Faculty of Business Management and Economics	
ECTS	**Method of grading**	**Only after succ. compl. of module(s)**	
5	numerical grade	--	
Duration	**Module level**	**Other prerequisites**	
1 semester	undergraduate	--	

Contents

Description:
The course consists of six chapters. The first chapter illustrates what economists have in mind when referring to the term "economic policy" and discusses its objectives, means and institutions. The following chapters deal with the objectives that are set out in the German "Gesetz zur Förderung der Stabilität und des Wachstums der Wirtschaft" ("Law for Promoting Stability and Growth of the Economy") of 1967. Each chapter uses current macroeconomic data to evaluate the degree to which the particular objective is achieved, discusses the reasons of possible problems and demonstrates actions the government may take to cure the problems.

Outline of syllabus:
1. Introduction
-What is "Economic Policy"?
- Objectives of economic policy
- Instruments of economic policy
- Institutions of economic policy
2. Full employment
- Empirics: The status quo of the labour market
- Reasons for unemployment
- Cure for labour market problems
3. Price level stability
- Empirics: inflation, deflation or price stability?
- Reasons for inflation and deflation
- Cure for price instability
- The contradicting relationship between full employment and stable prices
4. Business cycles and economic growth
- Empirics: current situation of the world economy and long-term ecnomoic growth
- Reasons for cyclical fluctuations and determinants of economic growth
- Cure for macroeconomic instabilities and means to facilitate economic growth
5. Balance in foreign trade
- Empirics: balances of payments of Germany, Europe and the World
- Reasons for macroeconomic imbalances
- Cure for instabilities in foreign trade
6. Income distribution
- Empirics: the distribution of incomes and its historical development
- Reasons for an increase in income inequality
- Cure for inequality and redistribution

Intended learning outcomes

The students gain a basic understanding of the role of the state in national and international economies. Based on a number of macroeconomic models (AS/AD, IS/LM, phillips curve, labor market equilibria, Solow model, Beveridge curve, etc.), students study the abilitiy of the state to influence national and global economies. Students learn to assess in which situations such influence can be welfare-enhancing and under which circumstances governmental interventions may be harmful. After successful completion of the course, students are able to analyze concrete economic situations and to develop policy options of the state. In addition, students have learned to

assess the situation of a country on the basis of empirical macroeconomic data and to explain the particular problems based on different models.
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)
V + Ü (no information on SWS (weekly contact hours) and course language available)
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)
written examination (approx. 60 minutes)
Allocation of places
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Additional information
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Workload
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Teaching cycle
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Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)
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Module appears in
Bachelor' degree (1 major) Mathematics (2008) Bachelor' degree (1 major) Mathematics (2007) Bachelor' degree (1 major) Business Management and Economics (2007) Bachelor' degree (1 major) Business Information Systems (2007)